

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HERB J. WESSON, JR.

HON. JANICE HAHN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, during Black History Month, I rise today to honor Los Angeles City Councilman Herb Wesson, Jr., who has built a ground breaking career of public service at the city, county, and state levels of government in the State of California.

Mr. Wesson made a significant contribution to contemporary Black History when he served as Chief of Staff in the office of Los Angeles County 2nd District Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke, the first—and only—African American female ever elected to the LA County Board of Supervisors.

His first elected office came in 1998, when he was elected to the California State Assembly and was re-elected in 2000 and 2002. His colleagues in the California State Assembly—by a unanimous vote—elected Mr. Wesson the second African American in the 162-year history of the State of California to serve as Speaker of the California State Assembly.

After he left the Assembly, he was elected to represent the 10th Council District in the City of Los Angeles in 2005, capturing over 80 percent of the vote. His City Council colleagues called him “a consummate bridge builder.” Last year, he was elected by his City Council colleagues—once again unanimously—to serve as President of the Los Angeles City Council, becoming the first African American to do so since Los Angeles was incorporated in 1850.

On January 3, 2012, City Council President Wesson took office and presided over his inaugural meeting of the city council. My friend and former colleague, Herb, personifies the storied and triumphant history of the African American community not just in Los Angeles, but around our great Nation.

CIVILIAN PROPERTY REALIGNMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 6, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1734) to decrease the deficit by realigning, consolidating, selling, disposing, and improving the efficiency of federal buildings and other civilian real property, and for other purposes:

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, while I agree that the federal government must find a way to dispose of unused federal government property properly, I voted against H.R. 1734, because this legislation turns the federal government into a worse partner than it already is.

There is a way to save federal government dollars and reduce our property holdings while

working in cooperation with local governments and the local population. Rather than working with local governments and respecting the plans they have implemented, this legislation ignores plans that are already in place, and does not give community leaders a chance to participate in any part of the property realignment. Additionally, the legislation overrides important environmental regulation that has helped protect our communities for decades.

It is frustrating that my colleagues refused to work in a bipartisan fashion, or even to work with local governments, to develop a better way to dispose of excess federal property. I look forward to working with my colleagues to find a solution we can all agree on.

TRIBUTE TO MR. DICK MONTEITH

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the life of a beloved leader in the Stanislaus County community, Mr. Dick Monteith, on his 80th birthday.

Dick Monteith was born in Los Banos, California, spent his early years attending Merced and Stanislaus County public schools, and graduated from Turlock High School. He continued his education at Menlo College and Stanford University, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Soon after graduation, Dick started a life-long career in agri-business as a partner in Monteith Tractor/Truck Company. He subsequently served in the Marketing Department of Gallo Wines, and then as a Sales Representative for Weyerhaeuser Company. He retired as General Manager of Sales and Distribution for Middleton Packaging prior to seeking his first elective office.

He was elected to the California State Senate representing the 12th District in 1994 and then again in 1998. In 2006, Dick was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. During his time on the Board, he witnessed the collapse of the housing market, which caused a reduction in property taxes. The county was faced with the worst budget crisis since the Great Depression. Yet, even during the darkest days, the Board of Supervisors accomplished many projects, including the Crows Landing-West Park Project, Federally Qualified Healthcare Look Alike, New Residency Program, and the sale of the Behavioral Health Center to DMC.

Some of the Capital Projects that have been completed during his tenure include the completion of Gallo Center for the Arts, the Empire Pool Project, the Expansion of the West Modesto Clinic, a new Animal Shelter, the Salida Library Remodel Projects and the ground breaking for the Juvenile Commitment Facility. In addition, he has attended 189 Board meetings, considered 4,331 Resolutions and served as Chairman of the Board in 2011.

Dick and his wife Jeanine make their home in Modesto. He has two sons, three step-daughters, and four grandchildren.

Dick is a member of Christ Community Church and serves on the boards of Modesto Gospel Mission, Youth for Christ and Stanislaus County Prayer Breakfast.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Dick Monteith for his unwavering leadership and recognizing his accomplishments and contributions. Dick serves as an example of excellence to those in our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on February 3, 2012, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 31, 32 and 33. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 31, on the motion to recommit with instructions for H.R. 3578, “yea” on rollcall vote 32, passage of H.R. 3578, and “yea” on rollcall vote 33, on agreeing to the conference report for H.R. 658.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Marriage Week, which begins today and concludes on Valentine’s Day. I am a strong supporter of traditional marriage, which is the basis of the American family. The purpose of National Marriage Week is to encourage spouses to rededicate themselves to each other and towards strengthening their marriages. Strong marriages allow children to flourish and provide a safe structured environment for emotional, spiritual, personal and professional development.

The family is the cornerstone of our society and I encourage all Americans to take this week to focus on their spouse and commit to strengthening their marriage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, on February 6, 2012, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 34 and 35 due to commitments in my district. Had I been present I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 34 and “yes” on rollcall vote 35.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.